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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,642	11/18/2003	Masayuki Takenaka	117215	2531
25944	7590	08/22/2007	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			LE, TAN	
P.O. BOX 19928			ART UNIT	
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			PAPER NUMBER	
			3632	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/714,642	Applicant(s) TAKENAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Tan Le	Art Unit 3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16, 19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent No. 6,166,498 to Yamaguchi et al. in view of US patent No. 5,460,234 to Matsuura et al.

As to claim 1, Yamaguchi et al. discloses a drive unit for hybrid vehicles comprising: a control unit section (46, 49, 51) (Fig. 1) of a drive unit (10) provided with an electric motor (16) is mounted on the drive unit (10) to be united therewith, the control unit section, comprising: a power unit (50, 54, 53); and a control unit (46, 49, 51), the power unit being immovably mounted to the drive unit (10), and the control unit being movably supported on the drive unit (10). The control unit comprises a control board (57a, 57b (col. 5, line 8) mounted to a base (no numeral, fig 3) to control the drive unit.

The Yamaguchi device differs from claim 1 of the present invention in that it is not provided the base, which is supported through vibration proof mechanism on the drive unit.

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Matsuura et al teaches the concept of such (through dampers 24, 28, 38, 40, 67 and 76 together) for providing better vibration or shock isolation to the control unit.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the base, which is supported through vibration proof mechanism on the drive unit on the Yamaguchi et al base as taught by Matsuura et al in order to provide better vibration performance or better isolation to the control unit section which is exposed to vibrations during running vehicle.

As to claim 2, wherein the power unit comprises an inverter unit (50, 53, 54), the inverter unit is connected to the electric motor (16) (Fig. 1) of the drive unit (10) through a connection member (LGu, LGv, LGw) and the connection member is immovably mounted to the drive unit and the power unit.

As to claims 3 and 11, wherein the power unit comprises an inverter unit, the control unit section is provided with a casing (46), which receives therein at least the inverter unit, and the power unit is held on the casing.

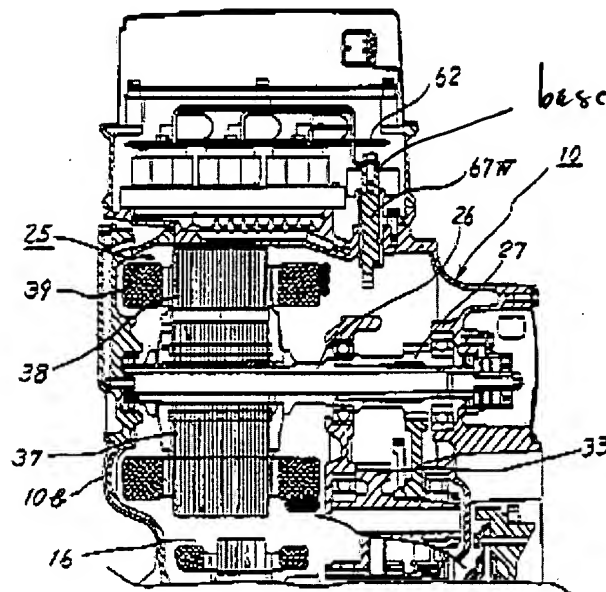
As to claims 4 and 12, wherein the casing (46) is mounted to the drive unit (10) to thereby make the power unit immovable relative to the drive unit.

As to claims 5 and 8, Yamaguchi et al as modified also teaches the control unit is supported through the vibration proof mechanism on the power unit and supported through the power unit on the drive unit.

As to claims 13 and 16, wherein the power unit comprises an inverter unit, the control unit section is provided with a casing, which receives therein at least the inverter unit, and the power unit is held on the casing.

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As to claim 19, Yamaguchi in view of Matsuura et al. differs from claim 19 of the present invention in whether the flexible grounding member to ground the control unit to the drive unit. However, flexible grounding connector is well known in the art to allow relative movement between connections at both ends without resistance therefore it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to include a flexible grounding member to ground the control unit to the drive unit for the desirable purpose of simply reducing resistance.



Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 20 is objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 5/19/07 with respect to the rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16 and 19-20 under Takenaka et al. have been fully considered and are

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persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Yamaguchi et al and Matsuura et al.

Conclusion

This action is made non-final.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-6818.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. through Fri. from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on (571) 272-6842. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Tan le
August 4, 2007.



RICHARD E. CHILCOT, JR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER